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| | | | |
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L17: Entry 1 of 1

File: PGPB

Jul 28, 2005

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20050166094 A1

TITLE: Testing tool comprising an automated multidimensional traceability matrix
for implementing and validating complex software systemsSummary of Invention Paragraph:

[0077] As used herein, a "script" is a written description of the set of transactions to be executed in a test case and a list of expected results for comparison to the actual results. A script is typically associated with each test case, and may be displayed via a Test Case Catalog Maintenance Form (described hereafter) or be accessible from a link or other means from the Test Case Catalog Maintenance Form. The instructions for transactions to execute in a script may be written in descriptive terms to tell a human operator what transactions to execute, or it may comprise or access computer instructions to automatically execute the transactions, or may comprise any combination of computer-executed and human executed instructions. Computer instructions may be in any form, such as Java Script, Visual Basic code, Pascal, Fortran, C++, any known macro language, and the like. In one embodiment, the script comprises or consists of a text-based document such as a Microsoft Word document or text file that is accessible from a graphical user interface display of the Test Case Catalog Maintenance Form for a particular test case.

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0110] FIG. 7 representatively illustrates a screenshot of an exemplary view of "Assigned Cases" information that has been expanded or opened;

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0181] The drop down information for "Assigned Cases" 256 (not shown) can list all test cases that employ the transaction in question. This additional information is displayed in FIG. 7, depicting the lower portion of a screenshot after the "Assigned Cases" information 256 has been expanded or opened. Each "GO" button thereon jumps to that test case for the test case details. Each "Analysis" icon produces an Analysis Roadmap from that test case as a starting point.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0186] In the Analysis Roadmap of FIG. 9, a folder representation technique is used due to its familiarity with many computer users, though many other graphical systems known in the art could be used (e.g., branch and tree diagrams, spoke and hub diagrams, linked bubble diagrams, etc.). The folder theme allows one to easily expand and collapse details by clicking on icons or lines of text, if desired. In one embodiment, a folder with a plus means there is detail to be expanded underneath by left-button clicking on the plus sign. Where detail has been presented and a minus sign accompanies a folder, the detail can be collapsed by left button clicking on the minus sign. This allows customization of the detail to view by each user.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0202] In the method 320 of FIG. 14, an objective suitable for patching is identified 400 (e.g., correction of a bug, etc.). Typically this will entail

documentation of the problem and receiving appropriate permissions from an administrative entity (not shown) to proceed with the project, coupled with review of the scope of the work required and its suitability for release as a patch. The modules that need to be modified are identified 402 (this may also occur concurrently with identifying an objective suitable for patching). The Automated Multidimensional Traceability Matrix ("T.M.") is used to identify the other software modules that may be affected by the changes 404. At this point, it may be appropriate as an optional step to consider whether the patch is appropriate 406 given the scope of the project, based on the modules that may be affected. If a patch is no longer deemed appropriate, the proposed changes can be included in the next software release 408 rather than in the form of a patch (in which case, several additional steps can be executed, none of which are shown, such as implementing the changes, adding other changes and additions, testing the modified code, approving the release, and issuing the new release). If a patch is appropriate, the patch can be created 410. Those skilled in the art will understand the various approaches that can be taken to create the patch, such as using automated tools to compare a modified software modules with the original software modules to automatically create an executable code to replace the changed portions of the binary code in the original module, or using tools to generate installation software to replace the original module with the modified module, and so forth; similar approaches can be carried out when the patch is applied to uncompiled code that is subsequently compiled by the user.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0251] Other systems that may be combined with the present system to extend functionality or serve as a portion of the testing system include the documentation management tools for ISO compliance described in WO 97/12311, "System and Method for Quality Management," published Mar. 4, 1997 by J. A. McFarland. Projects may also be assisted by known requirements management (RM) tools (See, for example, Dustin et al., pp. 206-211) such as Requisite Pro by Rational, DOORS by QSS of Telelogic North America, Inc. (Irvine, Calif.) (e.g., DOORS 7.1, as described at <http://www.telelogic.com/products/doorsers/doors/index.cfm>, as viewed Oct. 7, 2004), and RTM by Serena Software, Inc. (San Mateo, Calif.--see <http://www.serena.com/Products/rtm/home.asp>, as viewed Oct. 7, 2004). RM tools may assist in managing the requirements of a software development project and help ensure that business objectives are met. Automated creation of a "requirements traceability matrix" (not to be confused with the Traceability Matrix of the present invention which describes the relationships between test cases and/or software modules) may be done with DOORS, for example, to link each test procedure with its respective test requirements.

Detail Description Table CWU:

1TABLE 1 XML Elements Employed in Example 1. XML Element Element Description <tree> Signifies the tree root <key id> Number of the tree key <highlight> Highlights the starting key <text> Test cases are the keys <schedule1> Logical delete indicator <schedule2> Execution date <schedule3> Execution indicator <reference1> Used for referencing <reference2> Used for referencing <reference3>< Used for referencing <description> Test case description <imageExpand> Image to be used when expanded <imageCollapse> Image to be used when collapsed <children> Tributaries (other key element(s))

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